

Bingley Urban District Council.



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31ST, 1919.

BINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

The contents and arrangement of the following Report are in accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health, in a Memorandum dated January, 1920.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Population of the District in 1919 is estimated by the Ministry at 18,565 for the calculation of the birth-rate, and at 17,822 for the calculation of the death-rate.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.—The Urban District of Bingley consists of a section about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, of the valley of the River Aire, running from North-west to South-east, and the drainage area of that part of the river. On the North-east side of the valley the land rises steeply to the table-land of Rumbolds Moor which has an elevation of 800 to 1,200 feet, the valley itself being between 200 and 300 feet above sea-level. On the South-west side the District consists chiefly of the drainage area of Harden Beck, a tributary of the Aire, flowing from South-west to North-east, the watershed of which varies in height up to about 1,000 feet. The geological stratum of the District is millstone grit, overlaid in places by the lower

valley is occupied by beds of boulder clay and gravel, and on one of these the greater part of the town of Bingley is built. Besides the drainage areas mentioned, the District includes, in the East, part of the valley of Gill Beck, a stream which joins the Aire about three miles below Bingley. The greatest breadth of the District is about eight miles, from North-east to South-west, and the least, from North-west to South-east about three miles. The total area is stated to be 11,675 acres.

Social Conditions.—The greater part of the population is employed in one branch or another of the woollen trade, i.e. wool-combing, spinning or weaving. The plentiful employment, increased wages, and shorter hours obtained during the last five years have, as far as these factors can do so, raised the social condition of the workers to a higher level than formerly. Unfortunately, one of the most important conditions of a higher social status, improved housing accommodation, is still wanting, and consequently the benefit to the public health and welfare, which might have been expected, is far from complete. In a large number of cases, certainly over a hundred, houses intended for one family are at present being occupied by two families, and the number of very small houses is still greater than is desirable. The number of occupied one-roomed dwellings, which was over 50 at the last census, has been reduced to 31, and the number of two-roomed houses is about 640. More and better houses and better facilities for sensible and healthy recreation are the chief social needs of the workers at the present time.

Besides woollen manufacture, other occupations of importance are farming, chiefly dairy farming, market gardening, and stone quarrying and dressing. The two former may be classed as healthy occupations. The last is less healthy, leading to lung disease from inhalation of dust, but owing to the small demand for building stone during recent years, few persons have been employed in its production.

Vital Statistics.—These are contained in the following tables which have been prepared in the same form as in previous years. It will be noted that the Infantile Death-rate is the lowest recorded.

Pauperism.—At a given date the number of persons in the District receiving Poor-law relief was, indoor 60, out-door 70, and insane 45.

Hospital Treatment is provided by the Bingley Cottage Hospital, with 20 beds. This is not sufficient for the needs of the District, and it is likely that extensions will be undertaken in the near future.

Two District Nurses are employed by Voluntary Associations, one working in Bingley and the neighbourhood, and one at Wilsden and Harden. It is very desirable that a similar Association should be formed for Cullingworth or that that village should combine with some other village to secure the services of a trained nurse.

Table 1.—Vital Statistics of whole District during 1919 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.		
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	under 1 year of age.		
			Number.	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1914	18,830	328	329	17.4	212	11.2	7	36	23	70	241
1915	18,714	316	317	16.9	241	12.8	2	38	26	82	277
1916	18,615 for death rate 20,253 for birth rate	299	302	14.9	231	12.8	6	33	30	99	258
1917	17,031 for death rate 18,985 for birth rate	223	223	11.7	213	12.5	6	34	18	80	241
1918	16,735 for death rate 18,751 for birth rate	215	215	11.5	306	18.3	6	30	18	83	324
1919	17,822 for death rate 18,565 for birth rate	253	253	13.6	231	13.0	0	31	17	67	262

Area of District in acres	Total population at all ages	18,759	} At Census 1911.
(land and inland water) 11,675.	Total families or separate occupiers	4,748	

Table II. Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1919.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.									Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At Ages—Years.									
	At all ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Age not stated.	
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup.	97	1	13	63	13	7				80
Erysipelas.	4	1			1	1		1		
Measles	11		4	7						
Scarlet Fever.	2			2						2
Enteric Fever.	1					1				1
Puerperal Fever	4				1	1			2	
Anthrax	1								1	
Pneumonia	33	1	4	7	2	7		3	1	8
Malaria	6					4				2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2								
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	29	2		1	8	12		5	1	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	7			4	1	2				
TOTALS	197	7	21	84	26	35		9	2	13
.. .. .										83

Isolation Hospitals { Keighley and Bingley Joint Hospital.
Thornton Joint Hospital.

Table IV.—Infant Mortality.
1919—Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 Weeks	2-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes { Certified Uncertified	3 ..	2 ..	3	8	4	1	1	3	17
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Convulsions	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Congenital Malformations	2	2	..	4	..	..	..	..	3
Premature Birth	1	..	1	2	1	..	..	1	2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	3	2	3	8	4	1	1	3	17

Nett Births in the year	{ Legimate .. 240.	Nett Deaths in the year	{ Legitimate Infants .. 14.
	{ Illegitimate .. 13.		{ Illegitimate Infants .. 3,

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.—The Water Supply of the District is derived in part from Bradford water-works and in part from local sources. Three reservoirs, with a total capacity of over 5,000,000 gallons, are owned by the Council. The villages of Harden and Cottingley are supplied from private sources. The supply is in all cases constant, unless interrupted by severe drought. In general the supply is sufficient and of good quality, but in some of the out-lying parts there is still a possibility of pollution from farms and manured fields. One case of lead poisoning was reported during the year in a part of the District supplied direct from the Bradford main to which the house occupied by the patient is connected by a lead service pipe of considerable length.

Rivers and Streams in the District are in some places liable to pollution from untreated sewage, i.e. Ryecroft and the Crack Lane District of Wilsden. The provision of sewers for these places has been repeatedly considered by the Council but natural difficulties are against its accomplishment.

Drainage and Sewerage.—With the exception of Ryecroft, Harecrofts, and part of Wilsden all the hamlets and villages have now been connected with the main sewerage system conveying sewage to Dowley Gap for treatment. During 1919 a sewer has been laid from Crossflatts to Ryshworth, 347 yards, to drain the houses about to be built under the Council's Housing Scheme. The Sewage Disposal Works, situated at Dowley Gap, comprise storm tanks, motor-driven screens, detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and land-beds. The effluent is well up to the required standard. Sludge is lifted to sludge-lagoons by ejectors worked by compressed air.

Closet Accommodation.—The conversion into water closets from other types of closet has been delayed during the past six years. The two tables on p.p. 30 and 31 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report show the present position of the District in this respect, and the rate of progress since 1908. It will be seen from the first table that there is still room for improvement in the Urban portion of the District (Bingley), whilst in the rural portion and

villages the majority of the closets are of insanitary types. In the latter, however, are included the outlying farms and houses where closets which would be termed insanitary in a populous District are much less objectionable.

Scavenging.—House refuse is removed by the Council and conveyed to Dowley Gap, so also are the contents of privies and ashpits. In outlying parts refuse is removed by contract and deposited in suitable tips. The substitution of moveable ashbins for fixed receptacles has, like the conversion of closets, been delayed since 1914. (See table on page 31).

Sanitary Inspection of District.—The following table (page 12) shows the number and nature of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector, the defects discovered, the number of notices served, distinguishing statutory from informal notices, and the results of service of such notices.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

Number of Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.	Notices Out- standing at end of 1918	Notices served		Notices complied with	Summonses.		Notices Out- standing at end of 1919.
		Informal	Formal		Served	Dismissed.	
Dwelling-Houses ..	319	43	6	72	1	1	23
Factories and Workshops ..	140	18	4	18			4
Cowsheds ..	119	4		4			
Slaughter-houses and Food Shops ..	1,739	2		2			
Offensive Trades ..	98						
Common Lodging Houses ..	7						
Smoke Observations ..	7	2		2			

Defects discovered were as follows :—

Houses with Defective Closet Accommodation	..	32
Houses with Defective Drainage	..	32
Houses affected with Dampness	..	6
Dirty Houses ..	..	3
Houses where Overcrowding occurred	..	3
Houses with Defective W.C.s...	..	16

Premises and occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations—

The following is a list of such premises in the District :—

Slaughter-houses, 12; Offensive trades, 19 (tripe-boilers 2, fell-monger 1, gut-scraper 1, tanners 3, fried fish shops 12); Lodging-houses, 1.

Schools.—The sanitary condition and water supply of the public elementary schools is satisfactory. During the year one school was closed for a fortnight on account of influenza, and for about a month on account of diphtheria; one for a fortnight for measles; one Infant Department for a month, and three Infant Departments for a week, before the Christmas Holidays, on account of whooping-cough and mumps. Bacteriological examination of 75 children attending one school was made during an epidemic of diphtheria.

FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—There are 124 dairy farms in the District, with 218 cow-sheds. Much of the milk produced is sent to Leeds and Bradford and little, if any, is imported. Cow-sheds are regularly inspected. The milk is of good quality, and there is no complaint to make as regards its distribution. No reports were received of non-compliance with the regulations of the Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milk-Shops Orders, nor was any action taken in regard to tuberculous milk. Under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918, ten grants of extra milk were made during 1919, usually one or two pints daily for one or three months. Each case was investigated by the Chairman of the Welfare Committee and by the Medical Officer, and the allowance was regulated according to the needs of the case without adhering to any definite scale.

(b) **Other Foods.**—Inspection of Food is one of the duties of the Sanitary Inspector, and action taken by him with regard to unsound food is detailed on page 28. The number of bake-houses in the District is 22, of which 3 are underground. There is no public abattoir in the District.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Of the Infectious Diseases notifiable before 1919 the only one which was prevalent in 1919 was diphtheria, of which 97 cases were notified, five being fatal. There were two periods of maximum incidence, May-June, and September-October. Most of the cases occurred in children of school age, and the disease appeared to be spread for the most part by infection in school. Two schools were closed, one for a fortnight and another for a month, and in one Infant School the children in every form in which cases occurred were examined bacteriologically. Out of 75 so examined, one was found to give a positive result, and was excluded from school until two consecutive examinations were reported to be negative. Of the 97 cases notified, 80 were removed to hospital. Diphthera antitoxin is supplied by the Council free of charge and all contacts of school age are bacteriologically examined before being allowed to return to school. The table on page 16 shows the number of cases in different parts of the District in each month. Of the Diseases made notifiable under the regulations of January, 1919 (pneumonia, malaria, dysentery and trench fever), 33 cases of pneumonia were notified, 23 of which occurred during the month of March. There were 6 cases of malaria, 5 being soldiers returned from abroad and one a civilian residing in Holland. No cases of dysentery or trench fever were notified.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Intimation of the occurrence of these among school children is received from the Education Authorities, and when necessary they are visited by the Health Visitor. Ring-worm, scabies and impetigo are treated at the School Clinic.

Influenza was stated to be the cause of 24 deaths, mostly in January, February and March. Of the total, seven were between 25 and 45 years of age, and thirteen between 45 and 65. The majority of the cases of **Pulmonary Tuberculosis** are notified by practitioners at some period of the illness, many fairly early, but a few in late stages. Out of 16 deaths during the year 11 had been notified and 5 un-notified. Of the latter, two had been asylum inmates.

Notification of cases of Surgical Tuberculosis (bones, joints and glands) is much less complete, only 3 cases of Tuberculous Glands and two of Bones or Joints, being received during 1919. The scarcity of public provision for the treatment of these cases, beyond what can be obtained in voluntary hospitals, accounts to a large extent for this defective notification. More cases would be notified if treatment were facilitated thereby to a greater extent than is the case at present.

No vaccinations for **Smallpox** were performed by the Medical Officer of Health during the year. Two soldiers who had been in contact with cases of Smallpox on board ship were kept under observation until the incubation period was at an end.

One case of **Anthrax** was notified, occurring in a man residing in the District but working elsewhere.

Table showing Number of Cases of Diphtheria in different parts of the District in each month of 1919.

Months.	Bingley.	Cottingley.	Harden.	Crossflatts and Micklethwaite.	Eldwick.	Cullingworth,	Wilsden.	Totals.	0—5 Years.	5—15 Years.	15 Years and upwards.
January ...				2				2	2		
February ...	1			1				2		2	
March ...	2			1				3		1	2
April ...	7							7	1	6	
May ...	12			1			3	16	4	9	3
June ...	19			1		1		21	1	11	9
July ...	4					4		8	1	6	1
August ...	3							3	2	1	
September ...	14							14	1	13	
October ...	13		1		1			15	2	10	3
November ..	2							2		2	
December ...	4							4		2	2
Totals ...	81		1	6	1	5	3	97	14	63	20

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The general arrangements made by the Council for attending to the health of children under five and of expectant and nursing mothers are as follows :—

(1) **The Work of the Health Visitors.**—Of these, one works over the whole District except Wilsden and Harden, and combines with health visiting the duty of school nurse for the same area. She is also school nurse and health visitor for East Morton and Riddlesden, under the West Riding County Council. About half her time is spent in the supervision of the welfare of children under school age in the Bingley Urban District. The second health visitor works in Wilsden and Harden. She is also District Nurse and School Nurse at Wilsden.

(2) **Infant Centres.**—A meeting is held at the Technical School once a fortnight. There have been 25 such meetings during the year, the average attendance of children was 31, and the total number of attendances was 780 made by 164 children under a year old and 43 over that age. Over 50 per cent. of the whole number of infants under a year old residing within what may be considered a reasonable distance, attended the Centre, i.e. excluding Wilsden, Cullingworth and other parts of the District from which the distance is too great to expect mothers to bring children. The meetings are attended by the Medical Officer and the Health Visitor. All children are weighed and examined, and advice is given in individual cases in which malnutrition and other ailments are noted. General instruction in the form of short lessons on infant welfare is also given by the Health Visitor and sometimes by other ladies. Mothers are shown how to make suitable garments for young children, and certain materials for these are sold at cost price. Members of the Ladies' Committee and others act as voluntary helpers, and I wish to express my thanks for their invaluable assistance. Without their help it would be impossible to carry on the work. "Glaxo" (dried milk) and "Virol" are sold to mothers at cost price in cases where their use is advised by the Medical Officer. During the last few months a strictly limited amount of sugar has been sold by permission of the Ministry of Health, to mothers of children between 6 and 18 months.

(3) **Maternity.**—No midwife is employed by the Council, but the only trained midwife practising in the District has her income guaranteed by the Council, provided she attends a certain number of cases per annum. A centre for expectant mothers has met once a fortnight at the Technical School, where instruction is given by the above-mentioned midwife. The meetings are under the supervision of the Medical Officer. The care of health and the making of clothing are the chief subjects of instruction. In the latter, help is also given voluntarily by members of the Ladies' Committee and others. The average attendance is about eight. There are no maternity homes or institutions specially for mothers or children in the District. Still-births are made the subject of enquiry by the health visitors in cases when no doctor is known to have been in attendance, and all infantile deaths are enquired into. We have no special means of dealing with unmarried mothers or illegitimate children or with children not living with their parents, but such cases of course come under the general supervision of the Health Visitors.

Four cases of Puerperal Fever were notified during the year. All the patients recovered. In such cases the Medical Officer makes careful enquiries, and takes the steps which he considers necessary to avoid the spread of infection. Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified. Both were under medical treatment, and in both, one eye is permanently injured. In one case a large eucoma covers one pupil and there is nystagmus and squint. In the other a cataract is present. Eleven cases of Measles were notified during the year. Whooping Cough was prevalent, and the Infant Department of one school was closed for about a month for that reason. No cases of Epidemic Diarrhœa or Poliomyelitis occurred. As infants are seen by the Health Visitors six or eight times during their first year and three or four times a year until they reach school age, it is not likely that any illnesses or defects are entirely overlooked. When such ailments are noted the parents are advised to bring the child to the Infant Welfare Centre or to consult their own Doctor. Later enquiries show whether the advice has been followed.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1) **The Officials of the Sanitary Department** are the Medical Officer of Health, the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Nuisances who is also Inspector of Buildings and Inspector of Canal Boats, an Assistant Sanitary Inspector for Wilsden and Cullingworth Wards, who is also Assistant Water Manager for these Wards, two Health Visitors, one working in Bingley, Cullingworth, Crossflatts, Cottingley, Eldwick, and Gilstead, and the other in Wilsden and Harden. The former also acts as School Nurse, and the latter as School Nurse and District Nurse, each in her own District. In addition to these duties the Bingley Health Visitor works in Riddlesden and East and West Morton, which are outside the Bingley Urban District.

The Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector is appended to this Report.

(2) **Hospital Administration.**—Cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever, and occasionally other infectious diseases are received for treatment at the Keighley and Bingley Joint Hospital, Morton Banks, administered by the Joint Hospital Board, on which the District Council is represented. Now that the Hospital is re-opened after being used as a War Hospital, the accommodation for Infectious Diseases is sufficient. Out of 97 cases of Diphtheria notified in 1919, 80 were sent to hospital. Two cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Enteric, all that were notified, were also sent to hospital, a total of 83 out of 100 cases of these diseases. A Hospital at Stanbury is reserved for cases of Small-pox.

(3) **The following Local Acts and General Adoptive Acts are in force in the District.**

LOCAL ACTS.

Bingley Improvement Act, 1847.

Bingley Extension and Improvement Act, 1867.

Bingley Water and Improvement Act, 1881.

Bingley Urban District Council Act, 1901.

ADOPTED ACTS.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. Parts II., III.
and V.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907. Part II., Sec. 17,
19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30,
31, 32, and 33. Part III., Secs. 34, 35, 36,
37, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51. Part
IV., Secs. 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 62,
63, 64, 65, and 66. Parts V. and VI., Part
VII., Secs. 81 and 86. Part VIII. and Part
X., Secs. 94 and 95.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

(4) **Chemical and Bacteriological Work** in connection with Infectious Disease is undertaken by the West Riding County Council at the Public Health Laboratory, Wakefield. Frequent use is made of this institution for the detection of the organisms of Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Typhoid, and Ringworm.

HOUSING.

The total number of houses in the Bingley Urban District is within a very little of 4,800. Of these about 4,500 are occupied by, or are suitable for occupation by, members of the working class. Not a single new house was completed during 1919, but at the end of the year 15 houses were in course of erection, of which 12 were intended for working people. The population of the District at the census of 1911, was 18,759. The population estimated by the Registrar General for 1919 was 18,565 as a basis for calculation of the Birth-rate, and 17,822 for calculation of the Death-rate. Which of these two figures is the nearer to the actual number of people living in the District, it is impossible to say, but there is no reason to think that the population has increased since the census, nor, so far as I know, is any important increase or decrease anticipated in the near future.

In spite of the population having remained almost stationary, it is admitted by everyone that there is a shortage of houses in the District. This shortage first became noticeable in 1913. It was

somewhat less in 1914, but since then it has increased every year, until it now constitutes a very serious problem. In my opinion, there is urgent need for at least 200 houses, and in order to satisfy the demand completely about 250 houses would require to be erected. If one were asked why, with no increase in the population and approximately the same number of houses as before the war, there should be so great a deficiency, the answer would be that, owing to the difficulty of executing repairs during war-time, houses which were then on the verge of being in a state unsuitable for habitation are now below that level and ought to be closed, whilst on the other hand the demand for houses is greater, partly on account of the prosperity of the trade of the District, and partly on account of the return of soldiers and others who have been away on war service. Many of these were married during the war. Many others have been married since the Armistice, and now strongly desire to have homes of their own. In many cases these married couples have been compelled to take up their abode with the parents of either the husband or wife, or to become lodgers, arrangements which cause much inconvenience and are unsatisfactory from every point of view.

In order to remedy this deficiency of houses, the following measures have been taken by the Council :—

(1) At Crossflatts a building site of 12 acres has been purchased, giving space for 101 houses, and tenders have been accepted for 42 of these (16 parlour-houses and 26 scullery-houses).

(2) At Harden a site of 2 acres have been bought for the erection of 24 houses (12 parlour-houses and 12 scullery-houses).

(3) At Cullingworth $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land have been bought, on which it is proposed to build 40 houses.

(4) At Wilsden the Council has obtained a compulsory order to take possession of $5\frac{3}{4}$ acres of land as a site for at least 25 houses.

(5) At Dowley Gap, on land belonging to the Council, two houses are to be built (one parlour-house and one scullery-house).

The total amount of land purchased is thus $23\frac{1}{4}$ acres, and the number of houses to be erected is 192, but as yet (April 1920) only 42 of these have reached the stage of being tendered for by Contractors. Work has, however, been done in laying out the ground at Crossflatts and making connection of the site with the main sewerage system. It should be said that all plans provide for at least three bedrooms in each house.

At the present time **Overcrowding** exists in all parts of the District. The number of cases where more than one family occupies a house is known to be over 130. In one case at least, three families are known to be living in one house. The causes of this state of affairs are the large proportion of small houses of two or three rooms (stated by the census returns to be respectively 9.9 and 25.3 per cent. of the whole number of houses in the District), the increased demand for workers, and the cessation of building during the war. The only measure of any avail to reduce the overcrowding is the building of more houses. The number of large houses is so small that the dividing up of these, even if practicable, would not alleviate the difficulty to any marked extent. Two special cases of overcrowding were reported during 1919, but under the circumstances it was not considered possible to take any action.

As regards the **fitness of existing houses** the general standard varies in different parts. Houses which have been built within the last thirty years are, on the whole, satisfactory, but the same cannot be said of older houses. The number of back-to-back houses, namely 1,624, about one-third of the whole, lowers the standard considerably. Especially at Harden and Cottingley a large proportion of houses are dilapidated and insanitary from age and neglect. Although there are no court-yards surrounded by houses, there are a number of streets closed at one end, and in these the approach to the dwellings is in many cases badly kept. Indeed, the condition of the roadway of many streets, whether thoroughfares or not, is discreditable.

The general **characters of defects** found to exist in unfit houses are want of light and ventilation, and defective condition of repair, especially in regard to eaves-spouts, fall-pipes, want of

pointing of walls and of painting of woodwork, resulting in dampness and decay.

No action under the Public Health Acts was taken during the year in regard to unfit houses, on account of the **difficulties in remedying unfitness** under the present condition of affairs. The chief of these difficulties is the unwillingness of owners of house property to spend money on their houses in order to put them in proper repair, an unwillingness which is no doubt accentuated by the restrictions on rent, the scarcity of workmen to effect repairs, and shortage of material.

As regards **conditions outside mere fitness of houses** but which, nevertheless affect their suitability for habitation, the following remarks are to be made :—

(a) **Water Supply.**—Except in parts of the village of Harden and in some isolated instances, every house has a supply of water laid on, and there will be no difficulty in supplying with water from existing sources any houses which are likely to be built.

(b) **Closet Accommodation.**—The desirable standard, one separate closet for each dwelling, is still far from being attained. Even the modified standard of one closet for two houses has not in all cases been reached. In several cases three, and, in at least one case, four houses join in the common use of one privy.

(c) **Refuse Disposal.**—Dry refuse is regularly collected, and where open or closed middens have been replaced by receptacles for dry ashes, etc., its storage and collection does not affect the healthiness of the house, but there are still 534 open or closed middens in the District, most of which might be done away with to the advantage of neighbouring houses. As regards pail and midden closets, there are nearly 1,000 of these, and where they exist elsewhere than attached to isolated houses, their place certainly ought to be taken by water closets. During the year 1919 five midden closets, one pail closet, one covered midden, and one open midden were replaced by more sanitary arrangements (see table on page 31). A summons was issued against the owners of 16 houses in Princess Street and Rutland Street, under Section

91 of the Public Health Act, 1875, to obtain an order for the abatement of a nuisance caused by pail closets attached to these houses, but the magistrates declined to make such order, and the case was dismissed with costs.

No action has been taken as regards **unhealthy areas** either before or during 1919, nor have any complaints been made as to the existence of such areas.

The existing **Bye-Laws** are becoming out-of-date and there is now a distinct need for their revision, in order to provide for new methods of laying out streets and new methods of construction of houses.

H. ANGUS, M.D.,

M.O.H., Bingley Urban District.

APPENDICES.

Number of complaints received from householders that Dwelling-houses were unfit for human habitation	0
Number of Dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purpose of Section 17 of the Housing Act of 1909	319
Number of such houses found to be unfit for human habitation	44
Number of cases where defects were remedied without the making of closing orders	72
Number of cases in which action was taken under Section 28 of the Housing Act of 1919	0
Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders	0
Number of closing orders made	0
Number of closing orders determined on houses being made fit for human habitation	0
Number of Demolition Orders made	0
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
Number of houses demolished voluntarily	0
Number of representations made in regard to obstructive buildings	0

The members of the **Council's Staff who are engaged on Housing Work** are the Architect and Surveyor, who prepares laying-out plans, plans of houses, estimates and quantities, and supervises the erection of buildings. He has one assistant wholly engaged on the work, and one partly so engaged. The Inspector of Buildings attends to the general inspection of existing houses. He has one assistant partly occupied in the work.

BINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT of the BUILDING AND SANITARY INSPECTOR for the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BINGLEY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Twenty-first Annual Report upon the Sanitary Work executed under your authority during the year ended 31st December, 1919.

Building Plans, New Buildings, Sewers and Drainage Constructed.—42 Building Plans have been approved, and 2 disapproved; 1 dwelling-house has been erected; 347 yards of Main Sewers and 405 yards of Drains have been constructed, and 10 drains connected up to Main Sewers. 433 visits to buildings, sewers and drainage in course of construction have been made.

Central Ward :—Boiler house and temporary building in Whitley Street, 97 yards of drainage and 3 connections to Main Sewer.

South Ward :—27 yards of drainage. **West Ward** :—Workshop in Myrtle Place, dwelling-houses at Harden, 40 yards of drainage, and 2 connections to main sewers. **North Ward** :—Motor Garage, Langley Avenue, Motor Garage, Hillside Road, Cart Shed at Micklethwaite, Weaving Shed at Crossflatts, 347 yards of Main Sewers, Keighley Road, 175 yards of drainage and 4 connections to Main Sewers. **East Ward** :—Motor Garage, Crow Nest Road, temporary wooden buildings at Eldwick, 66 yards of drainage and one connection to Main Sewer. **Wilsden Ward** :—Two dwelling-houses in course of construction, Fire Escape Staircase and drainage, Spring Mills, and one house at Hewenden, have been constructed.

Abatement of Nuisances.—39 complaints have been received, 319 houses and premises have been inspected, 4 nuisances reported to the Council, 49 formal notices and informal notices have been served. At the end of 1918 there were 46 notices outstanding; of these, 72 formal and informal notices have been complied with, 68 nuisances abated, 32 were defective house drains, 14 untrapped sink waste pipes, 16 defective water closets, 3 damp walls, 3 houses with water in cellars; 11 water closets provided, 3 midden closets and one midden dispensed with. 274 visits to nuisances were made.

Nuisances to be dealt with.—Of the 23 notices outstanding, 6 are from Bingley, 1 Cottingley, 1 Crossflatts, 1 Cullingworth, 12 Harden, and 2 Low Springs, representing nuisances arising from privy and ashpit accommodation.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.—During the past year 100 cases have been notified, 115 visits have been made to houses in which infectious diseases have occurred, 98 houses have been disinfected, 85 cases were reported to the Education Department. There were 97 cases of Diphtheria, of these 80 were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, and 17 were nursed at home. There were 2 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 of Typhoid, these were removed to the Hospital. 17 dwelling-houses have been disinfected where deaths occurred from Tuberculosis. The drainage and sanitary arrangements of all the premises where infectious diseases have been notified have been inspected.

Factory and Workshop Act.—There are 112 workshops registered. Of these, 32 are in Wilsden, 18 in Cullingworth, and 62 in the five other wards. There have been 140 visits made to factories and workshops. Due attention has been paid throughout the year to cleanliness, ventilation, sanitary conveniences and drainage. Two notices of occupation of workshops have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories and dealt with during the year :—8 Notices for means of escape in case of fire; 17 Notices for insufficient and insanitary convenience; 12 Notices for ventilation and screening of sanitary conveniences; 1 Notice for lime-washing.

Canal Boats.—In accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Canal Boats Act, 1884, I have made 10 visits on that part of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal which is within the limits of your District, viz.: a length of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. In the Bingley Area we have 6 owners of canal boats, owning 16 boats between them. During the year 15 boats have been inspected, 30 men were on board. All the boats were registered and numbered to correspond with the certificates. There was no overcrowding, and the conditions respecting cleanliness, ventilation, painting, and repairs, were very good, with one exception, and this was attended to.

Common Lodging Houses.—There is one Common Lodging House; 7 visits have been made to this house, and it was found to be in good order.

Smoke Observations.—Seven observations have been made, 2 informal notices served and complied with.

Slaughter-houses and Food Shops.—There are 12 registered slaughter-houses; 1,739 visits to slaughter-houses and food shops have been made, and the Bye-laws relating to cleansing, removal of blood, garbage, etc., as far as practicable have been strictly enforced. My attention has been called to several cases, where frozen beef has been unfit for human food, and in one case a tuberculous carcase of beef was condemned as unfit for human food, and destroyed.

Cow-sheds, Dairies and Milkshops.—There are 124 cow-keepers entered in the report books, and 30 purveyors of milk; 119 inspections have been made of cow-sheds and purveyors' premises. With the exception of a few instances, the cow-sheds and other premises were found reasonably clean; where necessary, the attention of the persons concerned was drawn to this matter, and the cleansing and linewashing of premises soon followed.

Offensive Trades.—There are 19 persons engaged in offensive trades, 2 tripe-boilers, 1 fell-monger, 1 gut-scraper, 3 tanners, and 12 fish-frying shops. 98 inspections have been made, strict attention being paid to cleanliness.

Visits to Outlying Parts of the District.—18 visits to Cottingley, 56 to Crossflatts and Micklethwaite, 6 to Cullingworth, 10 to Eldwick, 1 to Faweather, 18 to Harden, 1 to Thwaites, and 5 to Wilsden have been made.

Nightsoil, Dry Ashes and Rubbish Removal.—There have been 2,612 loads removed at Bingley, 157 at Cottingley, 302 at Harden, 221 at Crossflatts and Micklethwaite, 192 at Eldwick, 900 at Cullingworth, 1,508 at Wilsden, making a total of 5,882 loads.

The following Table shows the types of Closet Accommodation and Receptacles for Refuse in the different parts of the District.

Divisions.	Water Closets.	Slop Water Closets.	Pail Closets.	Midden Closets.	Open Middens.	Covered Middens.	Dry Ashes Bins.	Dry Ashes Places.
Bingley ..	2197	730	56	84	18	30	353	912
Cottingley ..	104	16	6	60	18	20	17	28
Harden .	51	6	9	124	48	20		8
Crossflatts	238	31	2	29	11	13	15	71
Micklethwaite ..	142	3	10	26	14	6	14	12
Cullingworth ..	143	30	36	60	34	21	17	78
Gilstead ..	37	5		25	11	14	7	13
Eldwick ..	77	3	26	75	26	24	13	22
Wilsden ..	253	54	97	261	121	85	66	102
Totals	3242	878	242	744	301	233	502	1246

**The following Table gives the Alterations and Additions
to W.C. and Ashes-place Accommodation over a
period of Twelve Years.**

Years.	Reconstruction of Water Closet and Ashpit Accommodation.							
	Provided.				Dispensed with.			
	Water Closets.	Dry Ash Places.	Dry Ash Bins.	Slop Water Closets.	Midden Closets.	Pail Closets.	Covered Middens	Open Middens
1908	144	38		8	80	2	25	11
1909	530	136	3	9	246	55	85	28
1910	363	106	4	1	212	21	82	20
1911	133	37	2		105	40	29	12
1912	169	50	8		90	43	21	32
1913	105	42	7		76		29	18
1914	111	20	17		56	20	26	10
1915	61	14	9		32	13	16	9
1916	38	2	6		5	21	2	1
1917	10	1			4	3	1	
1918	6	1			1			1
1919	23				5	1	1	1
Totals	1693	447	56	18	912	219	317	143

Collection of Nightsoil, Dry Ashes and Rubbish.—The whole of this work is done by the Council's employees. The dry ashes bins, excreta pails, and dry ashes places are emptied and cleared weekly, fortnightly and monthly, middens are cleared monthly, and in some cases two or three months, this applies to the outlying parts of the District.

Disposal.—At the Council's Tip at Dowley Gap, about a mile from the town, where the bulk of the refuse is disposed of. In the outlying parts of the District, some of the refuse is disposed of in disused quarries, and in a few cases, the farmers take it on the land for tillage. During the year about 5 tons of fish-refuse have been collected from the town portion of Bingley, and sent to Bradford for the purpose of making patent manure.

I remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS POTTER.